



AP[®] Summer Institute
Exam Materials
2009 AP
English Literature and Composition

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2009 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Question 3

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

A symbol is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning.

Select a novel or play and, focusing on one symbol, write an essay analyzing how that symbol functions in the work and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

You may choose a work from the list below or another novel or play of comparable literary merit.

As I Lay Dying
The Awakening
Beloved
Bleak House
Cat's Eye
The Cherry Orchard
The Color Purple
Crime and Punishment
The Crossing
The Crucible
A Doll House
Equus
A Farewell to Arms
Fences
The Glass Menagerie
The Golden Bowl
The Grapes of Wrath
The Hairy Ape
Heart of Darkness
Invisible Man
Jude the Obscure

The Kite Runner
Lady Windermere's Fan
Macbeth
Madame Bovary
The Memory Keeper's Daughter
Moby-Dick
The Namesake
Nineteen Eighty-four
Our Town
The Plague
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
A Prayer for Owen Meany
A Raisin in the Sun
Reservation Blues
Snow
A Streetcar Named Desire
Things Fall Apart
Waiting for Godot
Wise Blood
The Women of Brewster Place

STOP

END OF EXAM

2009 AP English Literature Scoring Guide

Question #3: A symbol

General Directions: This scoring guide will be useful for most of the essays that you read, but in problematic cases, please consult your table leader. The score that you assign should reflect your judgment of the quality of the essay as a whole—its content, its style, its mechanics. **Reward the writers for what they do well.** The score for an exceptionally well-written essay may be raised by one point above the otherwise appropriate score. In no case may a poorly written essay be scored higher than a three (3).

9-8 These essays offer a well-focused and persuasive analysis of how a symbol functions to reveal characters or themes in a novel or play. Using apt and specific textual support, these essays fully explore the symbol and its significance. Although not without flaws, these essays make a strong case for their interpretation and discuss the literary work with insight and understanding. Generally, essays scored a nine (9) reveal more sophisticated analysis and more effective control of language than do essays scored an eight (8).

7-6 These essays offer a reasonable analysis of how a symbol functions to reveal characters or themes in a novel or play. These essays explore the symbol and demonstrate its significance. While these papers have insight and understanding, their analysis is less thorough, less perceptive, and/or less specific in supporting detail than that of the 9-8 essays. Generally, essays scored a seven (7) present better developed analysis and more consistent command of the elements of effective composition than do essays scored a six (6).

5 These essays respond to the assigned task with a plausible reading, but they tend to be superficial or underdeveloped in analysis. They often rely upon plot summary that contains some analysis, implicit or explicit. Although the writers attempt to discuss the symbol's significance and how it functions to reveal characters or themes, they may demonstrate a rather simplistic understanding of the work. Typically, these essays reveal unsophisticated thinking and development. The writers demonstrate adequate control of language, but their essays may lack effective organization and be marred by surface errors.

4-3 These lower-half essays offer a less than thorough understanding of the task or a less than adequate treatment of it. They reflect an incomplete or oversimplified understanding of the work, or they may fail to establish the relationship between the symbol and the work's characters or themes. They may not address or develop the symbol's significance, or they may rely on plot summary alone. Their assertions may be unsupported or even irrelevant. Sometimes wordy or repetitious, these essays may lack control over the elements of college-level composition. Essays scored a three (3) may contain serious misreading and demonstrate inept writing.

2-1 Although these essays make some attempt to respond to the prompt, they compound the weaknesses of the papers in the 4-3 range. Often, they are unacceptably brief or are incoherent in presenting their ideas. They may be poorly written on several counts and contain distracting errors in grammar and mechanics. The writer's remarks are presented with little clarity, organization, or supporting evidence. Particularly inept, vacuous, and/or incoherent essays are scored a one (1).

0 These essays give a response with no more than a reference to the task.

-- These essays are either left blank or are completely off-topic.

AP[®] SUMMER INSTITUTE SCORING NOTES
2009 AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Question 3

Sample Identifier: I (*Heart of Darkness*)

Score: 9

- A sophisticated analysis that demonstrates its thesis well, that “the African jungle and its inhabitants is much more than an unexplored continent; it symbolizes primal savagery and a disconnection from civilization.”
- Provides a well-written analysis of the jungle
- Is persuasively argued throughout
- Demonstrates the writer’s intelligence and subtlety, with observations such as that Marlowe’s journey is a “less physical one—to darkness and primordial being”

Sample Identifier: A (*Macbeth*)

Score: 8

- A well-written analysis, with precise observations such as the dagger is “symbolic of [Macbeth’s] desire to act and his impatience for power”
- Sophisticated in its use of language
- Makes a fine, insightful distinction between Macbeth’s choice of a dagger and a sword: “The small dagger, usually hidden on a person for a sneak attack, represents the shame of the use, bereft of dignity.”
- Persuasive in its use of examples
- Overall, a smart, sustained reading

Sample Identifier: C (*Beloved*)

Score: 7

- Contains apt use of specific references, such as the fact that when Paul D. tells Sethe that her love is “too thick,” he reveals “his belief that by loving someone, you are asking for heartache.”
- A solid argument, using the tin can as an apt symbol for Paul D.’s fear of feeling
- Provides good links between the symbol and Paul D.’s eventual growth
- One weakness, however, is the fact that the essay does not make the connection between the symbol and its significance, in this case, the character’s growth.

Sample Identifier: B (*Atonement*)

Score: 6

- A reasonable analysis of how the Tallis family’s vase symbolizes the loss of innocence in the play
- A well-organized and supported essay, but thinner in its discussion than a 7 would be
- Provides good examples, but the analyses are not particularly insightful
- Contains writing that is somewhat clunky and vague, such as when Briony sees a sexual encounter: “She has never seen this being done before, and changes her opinion in Robbie completely.”
- The focus on the vase is a bit narrow.

Sample Identifier: H (*Macbeth*)

Score: 5

- The use of blood as a symbol in *Macbeth* is good, but the development provided is rather sketchy.
- The essay’s grasp of what happens in the play is rather simplified.
- Some of the writing is rather weak, such as the claim that the shedding of blood in the play “soon builds up on him to the point where he can not take it any more.”

AP[®] SUMMER INSTITUTE SCORING NOTES
2009 AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Sample Identifier: G (*The Glass Menagerie*)

Score: 4

- Superficial in its analysis, with little support for its claims.
- Contains many weak and poorly phrased assertions, such as “if something is hyped up too much and not handled correctly, it can shatter.”
- Presents mainly a paraphrase of the story
- The figurine as a symbol only is discussed as it works to further the plot, not to discuss its thematic significance.

Sample Identifier: E (*1984*)

Score: 3

- Provides no references to the novel.
- Is essentially only poorly developed
- Overly general in its claims
- Does not look at how the symbol of Big Brother functions in the novel

Sample Identifier: D (*As I Lay Dying*)

Score: 2

- Contains many distracting errors
- Provides some specific references, but they are undeveloped
- Offers no real support for the claims made
- Ends with two irrelevant and shallow platitudes: “Love triumphs all and doing so can bring a family together.”
- Not vacuous or incoherent enough for a 1

Sample Identifier: F (*Scarlet Letter*)

Score: 1

- Unacceptably brief
- Provides no development of its claims
- Somewhat incoherent and vacuous

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad is the story of a man ^(Marlow) who ventures into the Congo as the captain of a ship to retrieve an ivory hunter named Kurtz — and preferably, on the Company's end, his ivory as well. In the novel, the Congo, an unknown and primordial mystery to Marlow, the ^{whole} place — the African jungle and its inhabitants — is much more than an unexplored continent; it symbolizes primal savagery and a disconnection from civilization.


In the story's plot, as Marlow almost obsessively searches for Kurtz, he ends up finding him sickly and depraved, clinging to his status as a white god over the worshipping natives. Marlow describes the jungle as having "taken" Kurtz — wholly embraced him — in its savage breast, resulting in the horror of Kurtz's downfall as he adopts the savagery of the Congo, in its "heart of darkness", and also its unspeakable rituals and a tribal mistress. Thus the symbol of the jungle becomes something that can also corrupt and insidiously sway, in Kurtz's ^{lost} case, Marlow described him as having ^{no self-restraint and} "gave in to his primal lusts". However, in the story, Marlow himself is not immune to the siren song of the jungle.

Marlow's journey to the heart of the Congo reflects a less physical one to — darkness and primordial being. The closer Marlow draws to Kurtz's inner station, the closer and more attracted he becomes to the jungle. This reveals a facet of his character that was unusual for his day —



a rather thorough contempt for his fellow white pilgrims and an increasing acceptance for the black natives. His disgust towards the white pilgrims bureaucratic-climbing, incompetent, and hypocritical ways is evident as he sees hollow men around him "sucking up" to gain political advantage, and backstabbing just to get a leg up on the political ladder. He openly scorns their incompetence as he sees a man trying to put out a fire with a bucket with a hole in it, and mocks the white pilgrims for thinking they shot anything when they were shooting from the hip. In fact, he sees right through the force that is "white imperialism", recognizing, even to his aunt, that the white men are simply there to make money and rape the land of its ivory. The jungle brings about these gradual sights and revelations to Marlow, who, in this growing dislike of white "civilization", begins to view the natives as "real people".

Yet if white civilization means greedy bastards and the jungle means unspeakable savage evil, ~~then~~ then where does Marlow stand? Where is right ground? Why does Marlow still condemn Kurtz for embracing the jungle & giving in to his lusts? The answer was in a vision Kurtz himself had before his corruption; he described a goal of having every white station in the Congo being a beacon of light, trading, and education. Marlow himself, before telling his story, muses on the necessity of a dream, a goal worth bowing down to — not just invading a country because its people talk differently or have slightly flatter noses. He, therefore, like



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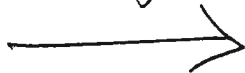
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Kurtz, dreams of an imperialism not founded on money but moral reasons. Marlow's entry voyage in to the jungle led him to see the necessity for this belief, led him to see the differing culture of the jungle and the foolishness of his own inside of it. However, he led himself out of it - away from the pure & unadulterated savagery it implied, with his eyes opened and his view of the world changed.



The pursuit of power has been the downfall of many characters throughout ^{literature} ~~history~~. The appeal of authority, wealth, and political strength has driven and motivated ~~many~~ ^{them} to ~~act~~ ~~commit~~ shameful deeds. In ~~Shakespeare's~~ "Macbeth", by William Shakespeare, the ~~main~~ protagonist, Macbeth, murders his king ^{in order to} rise in power. The apparition of the bloody dagger that appears to Macbeth before his act functions as the physical representation of Macbeth's ambition, betrayal and ~~regret~~ doubt.

Macbeth's ambition, ~~instigated~~ fueled by the witches' prophecy that he would be king, allows him to cast aside morals and loyalty in pursuit of his goal. ^{When the} ~~The apparition's~~ dagger appears, the handle points to him, all that is required is that he reach out and use it. ~~This is symbolic of his desire to~~ The dagger itself seems to be encouraging Macbeth. Its position is symbolic of his desire to ~~quick~~ act and his impatience for power. The dagger's appearance represents the action Macbeth is willing to take to speeding his rise to the position of king instead of passively awaiting the fulfillment of the prophecy. The blood on the dagger is also symbolic of Macbeth's ambition because it ~~is~~ foreshadows the murderous act he will soon commit as a warrior. However, this time Macbeth does not shed blood nobly in battle, ~~but~~ as a man of action, but sneakily goes to murder a sleeping



ally.

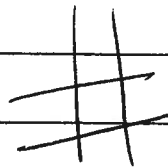
~~For~~ For this reason, the dagger is also representative of Macbeth's betrayal. The form of the weapon, not a sword, a symbol of strength, but the small dagger, usually hidden on a person for a sneak attack, represents the shame of the use, bereft of dignity. The weapon's appearance, a manifestation of an act committed, gives insight into ~~the~~ Macbeth's thoughts and ultimate awareness of ^{his} betrayal. He knows he shall betray king and country through the murder of his ^{guest} ~~teacher~~, and is stung by loyalty to the man that has so recently rewarded him. The ~~daggers~~ bloody dagger causes him to pause, for he does not leap to snatch it, as he also realizes that he will be betraying himself as well by giving up his morals and nobility to commit the gruesome sneak attack.

~~His~~ Macbeth's realization of his betrayal lead to thoughts of doubts, and he hesitates to grab the dagger, a motion that would affirm his acceptance of the act to come. The weapon's appearance, out of reach and before him, shows his reluctance ~~to~~ and represents ~~the~~ his nervousness about bearing the consequences of the murder, both politically and emotionally. ~~His~~ His hesitation is manifested in the bloody symbol, a weapon not yet in his hand,



and though it foreshadows his act, ~~it also represents the~~
the space between them also represent his choice to
withdraw ^{to} ~~and do~~ what is right.

Ambition ultimately overcomes hesitation and
Macbeth carries through with his foul mission
in pursuit of power. The blood on the dagger also
acts as a violent symbol throughout the play.
It represents the blood Macbeth has spilt for
noble causes, the blood that shall stain his hands
& marked by betrayal, and the blood to be
spilt in retribution for his deeds.



Symbolism is a widespread literary device used by many writers in various fields to express a certain aspect of their writing on a larger scale. In the novel *Beloved*, Toni Morrison uses symbolism ~~repeatedly~~ repeatedly, ~~and~~ often enforced with figurative language, to do just that.

~~The tin can~~

One symbol used throughout the novel is the tin can that Paul D says is in place "where a red heart used to be." Through his past experiences, Paul D has learned that the only way to keep his heart ~~safe~~ safe is to lock it somewhere deep down inside of him, so that even if he was tempted to give it away he wouldn't be able to. He tells Sethe, "Your love is too thick," revealing his belief that by loving someone, you are asking for heartache. She stubbornly replies "thin love ain't no love at all," challenging his words with her own sense of passion. He refuses to accept this, and he continues to pack everything he's ever wanted to care about — Sethe, the family, *Beloved*, friends — inside his "tin can", denying the temptation of ever really loving someone to

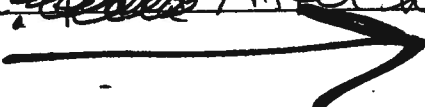




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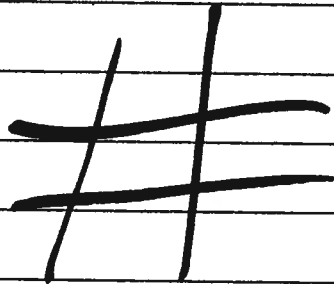
the fullest extent. With this, the reader is able to more deeply understand Paul D's actions - primarily when he leaves the house, temporarily abandoning Sethe ~~too~~ and her daughters ~~for~~ in order to focus on himself. His emotional conflict ~~allows~~ justify his behavior to a certain extent, saving him from a classification of a morally evil character.

After he learns about Sethe's secret, ~~but~~ however, his tin box cannot hold any more unexplored feeling, and it overflows with confusion. Even after listening to Sethe's explanation, he tells her she has two legs, not four, inferring that her attempt to take the lives of her children in order to save them from a lifetime of hell was inhumane, and no spoken defense could justify her actions. The knowledge that the one person he is trying hardest ~~to~~ not to care about has done something so terrible combined with the fear of whether or not she is capable of repeating such an action is too much to handle, and he stops on church steps to finally ^{pry open} ~~move~~ the lid of his box, allowing everything to come out at once in the only form it can ~~appear~~. After his



Years have washed away most of his emotional baggage, the reader can infer that the tin can is tossed aside, and the tied heart ~~the~~ breaks free from whence it was kept. Paul D is able to return to Sethe with a newfound understanding and openness, which she accepts readily, allowing her to reconcile the ^{departure} ~~loss~~ of Beloved and live the life she was always supposed to have.

The symbol of the tin can, used throughout the novel, enhances the reader's understanding of Paul D's character and Sethe's personal progression.



Atonement, a novel by Ian McEwan, describes the lifespan relationship between Robbie Turner, Cecilia Tallis, and Briony Tallis. At the beginning of the novel, Robbie accidentally breaks the Tallis family's vase that had been handed down to them and put on display in the guest room. This vase, ^{and} more specifically the breaking of the vase, symbolizes the loss of innocence throughout the play. The breaking of the vase has an impact on the main characters, and also reveals the theme of the loss of innocence in this novel.

After Robbie initially breaks the vase, the vase never appears in a monumental way again. The vase does, however, have a direct impact on Cecilia and Briony Tallis. Immediately after the vase shatters into ~~the~~ hundreds of pieces, some of which went into the fountain, Cecilia removes some of her clothes, in Robbie's presence, to retrieve them. This alone indicates Cecilia's partial loss of innocence to Robbie. Robbie sees Cecilia, and as a result, begins to have deeper feelings for her. This is further portrayed later on in the library scene when Robbie and Cecilia have their sexual encounter. It is revealed to the reader that it is the first time for both of them, signaling a loss of innocence. Cecilia's life, overall, takes a turn for the worse after the vase breaks. She gets too deeply involved with Robbie, which eventually leads to his downfall, and their eventual failure to become a steady couple.

Briony also changes and loses a piece of her innocence when Robbie breaks the vase. She, however, is ~~not~~ affected more indirectly than Cecilia by this event. It can be assumed that the effect this event had on Cecilia, ~~has~~ an effect on Briony's loss of innocence. When Robbie and Cecilia begin to have deeper feelings for each other, it is Briony who intercepts and reads Robbie's inappropriate note to



Cecilia. This note shocks Briony, and alerts her to things that she did not know in the past. A large portion of Briony's innocence is lost when she sees them in the library in the midst of their sexual encounter. She has never seen this being done before, and changes her opinion on Robbie completely. Briony is changed as a character, and directly causes the downfall of Robbie and Cecilia's future relationship. Briony, as a result of the vase breaking, loses her innocence and changes in the way she views certain people.

What seems like a small event, when the vase breaks, turns into a significant event. It symbolizes the loss of innocence of the main characters, and ~~also~~ changes the ways and ~~views~~ views of Cecilia and Briony. Cecilia loses her innocence in how she acts with Robbie, which is also her character change. Briony, more indirectly affected loses her innocence when she walks in on Robbie and Cecilia in the library; ~~and~~ this event also changes how she thinks of Robbie, which impacts the outcome of the novel. When Robbie breaks the vase, both Cecilia and Briony lose their innocence, and change how they think and act.

#

Question 3

H₁

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

Blood. The symbol of blood in The Tragedy of Macbeth plays a huge role, and Shakespeare uses that to tell and describe the entire play of Macbeth.

From bravery to violence, bloodshed seems to play the biggest role in the turning points in the play. The symbol of blood, first acts as bravery and honor with Macbeth being a hero knight, but the will for power, and the pleasure for killing soon turn that hero knight into a brutal murderer.

The blood symbol not only affects Macbeth, but his wife too. After King Duncan's murder, both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are stained with blood and eventually guilt. The blood can be washed off the hands, but not off the mind. Macbeth's mind plays a big role not only with the symbol of blood, but in the play as a whole.

The style and structure that Shakespeare writes makes the symbol of blood even more vivid. After each murder that Macbeth makes the blood comes off his body, but not his soul and soon builds up on him to the point where he can not take it any more, and he begins to hallucinate. From Macbeth's hallucinations, to his wife's nightmares, the symbol of blood stays with them until their deaths. Lady Macbeth, before her death, reveals the murders during one nightmare,



saying that famous quote, "Out spot, out..." referring to the blood stained on her life. She wants to rid herself of all the wrongdoings, but can not, and does not until her death.

From the meaning of honor to shame, the symbol of blood shifts heavily during Shakespeare's famous play. The ~~rest~~^{cruel} murders, and intense power that Macbeth is given really does make The Tragedy of Macbeth a tragedy.



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3

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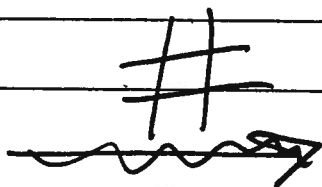
In The Glass Menagerie, the family goes through a difficult time ~~of~~
~~because of depression in the time of economic depression~~, financially. The ~~4~~ sister
~~of the~~ in the family is frail and delicate, just like her "glass menagerie"—a collection
of glass little glass toys.

The family is struggling to keep up the relationships, as well as keep up
financially. This all requires care in handling, just as the menagerie would. ~~but~~
The family doesn't necessarily get along all the time. The father has passed away, ~~and~~
the mother and son does not see eye to eye, and the sister is socially and physically
impaired. ~~It~~ needs some polishing, like the menagerie requires.

~~When finally~~, one day, there is a ray of hope in the household. One of
the brother's coworkers ~~and she~~ is coming over. The mother hopes to marry her
daughter off to him. He happens to be her first love back in high school. All of the
excitement brings the family closer together, ~~and seems to~~ ~~however~~ Unfortunately,
it appears that the man has a lover already. Coincidentally enough, just
before he breaks the news to the sister, ~~he breaks~~ one of her ~~figures~~ ~~the~~ glass
figurines ^{break}. If something is hyped up too much and not handled correctly, it can
shatter—just like the figurine. It can shatter, along with all the excitement and
hopes.

The ~~shattered~~ breaking off the figurine also foreshadows the
departure of the brother. He leaves the family ~~and breaks it apart even~~
with no farewell and breaks it apart even more.

The glass menagerie represents a family's relationship with one
another and the hopes it has for one another. It is all fragile and must be
handled with care.



Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

Question 3

E

In the novel Nineteen Eighty-Four ~~the~~ there is a re-occurring symbol of Big Brother. In the novel Big Brother is a system which watches over all ~~the~~ the citizens ~~in~~ in the country. As a symbol it stands for much more than that.

The most prominent thing that most people would say it represents is a threat to freedom. A universal threat to freedom everywhere. What ~~is~~ ^{is} the point of having rights if you do not have the ability to have private time? It can also symbolize the end of personal thoughts & original ideas. Nowadays, most information is fed to us through universal media & students especially have no time for personal time to just ponder. Also, social networking & technology are essentially a Big Brother, never leaving us to ourselves. In the book, these symbols bring up the thought of a machine or computer. Everyone is watched to make sure they do their part. It is also a symbol which brings up feelings that make the characters want to rebel & overthrow the government. When reading this book you can't help but feel like the characters are being cheated out basic rights that we, in real life, enjoy everyday.

The use of such a strong symbol in this book actually conjures up real life feelings & reactions in people as they read.

#

In As I Lay Dying, ~~the~~ ~~wagon~~ the dead grandmother represents a symbol of love. Anse takes the whole family to make sure Grandma is buried in the cemetery. Anse takes huge risks to get her there and this reinforces the symbol of love they had.

~~Anse~~ Grandma asks to be placed in a far off cemetery and Anse does it. The family follows Anse lead. This shows the deep love they had and also the importance of granting people's last wishes was back then. This symbol causes the family many problems and the loss of valuable resources yet they keep on moving ahead. This reveals the determination Anse has.

In the end, ~~Anse~~ Grandma becomes a symbol for both the journey and the idea that love triumphs all and doing so can bring a family together.

#

In a novel by the name of "The Scarlet Letter" written by Nathaniel Hawthorne, it involves the use of a symbol. There is a character by the name of Hester who has to wear a red sweater with a yellow letter A on it. It is done so because she has committed ~~adultery~~ adultery at a young age in a town ~~where~~ where that isn't allowed. With her wearing the sweater everywhere she goes, people look down at her lowering her self-esteem giving her life a bad reputation. She's not respected nor treated like she's another human. That's one symbol I wouldn't dare represent.

